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03/13/24 • COVID › NEWS

COVID Vaccine Trials Were Biased: How Pfizer, Moderna Exaggerated Shots' Efficacy

According to Raphael Lataster, Ph.D., a former pharmacist and self-described misinformation specialist, four recent papers describe serious biases in COVID-19 immunization trials that caused investigators to exaggerate the products' meager benefits while downplaying their dangers.

By Angelo DePalma, Ph.D.

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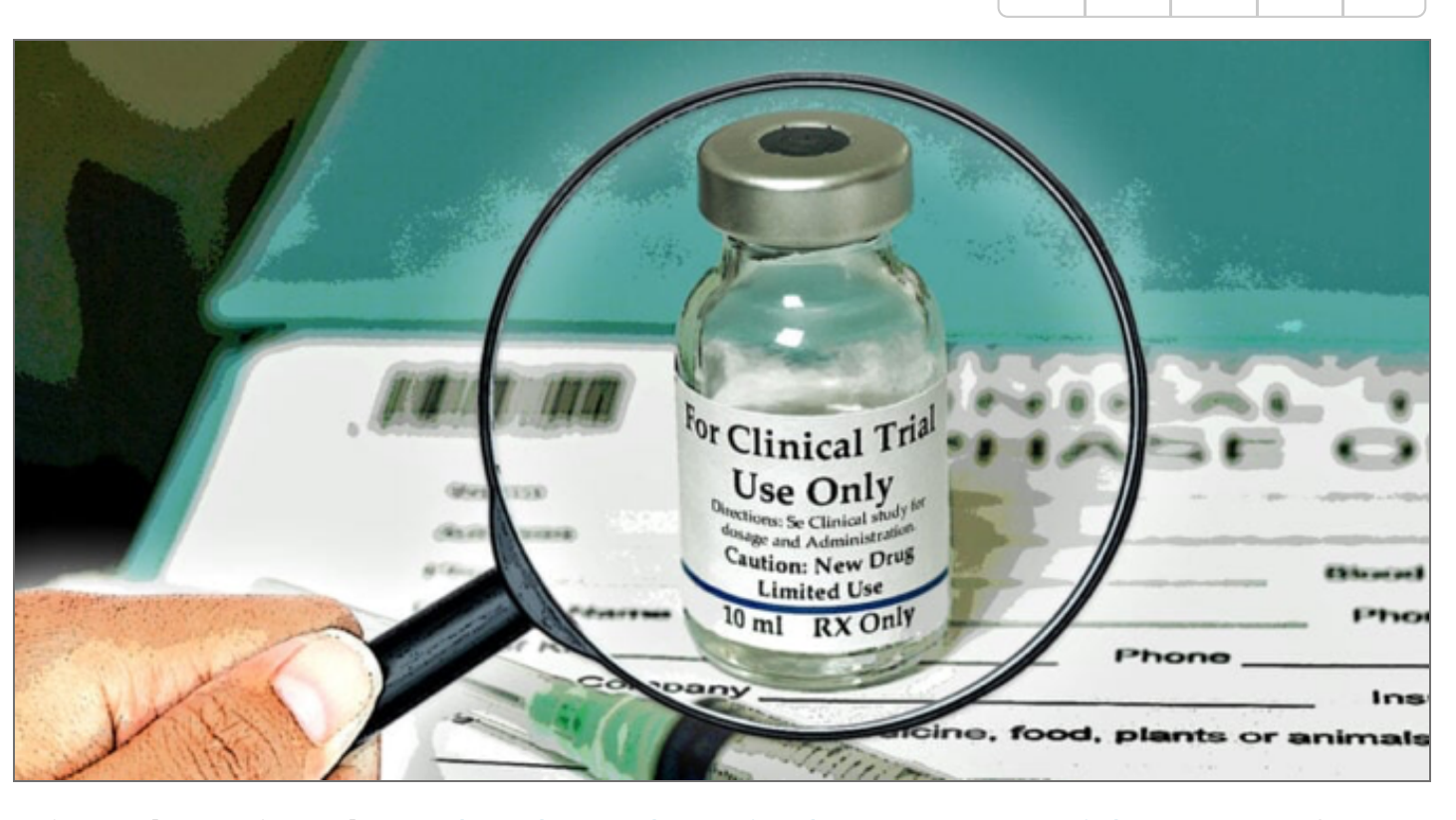
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A former pharmacist and self-described misinformation specialist affiliated with the University of Sydney, Australia, summarized four studies suggesting that the promise of "safe and effective" COVID-19 immunizations was "exaggerated in clinical trials and observational studies."

Raphael Lataster, Ph.D., outlined his arguments on Substack, basing his conclusions on four papers:

- A March 2023 paper by lead author Peter Doshi, Ph.D., describing "case-counting window" bias and its possible effect on COVID-19 vaccine effectiveness reporting.
- Lataster's July 2023 response to Doshi's paper, concluding the same type of bias affected safety reporting.
- A July 2023 response by Doshi explaining how case-counting window biases were used to game the Pfizer and Moderna vaccine clinical trials.
- Lataster's own January 2024 paper, which discussed rampant biases in the trials in light of more recent data on myocarditis, a now-recognized side effect of the shots.

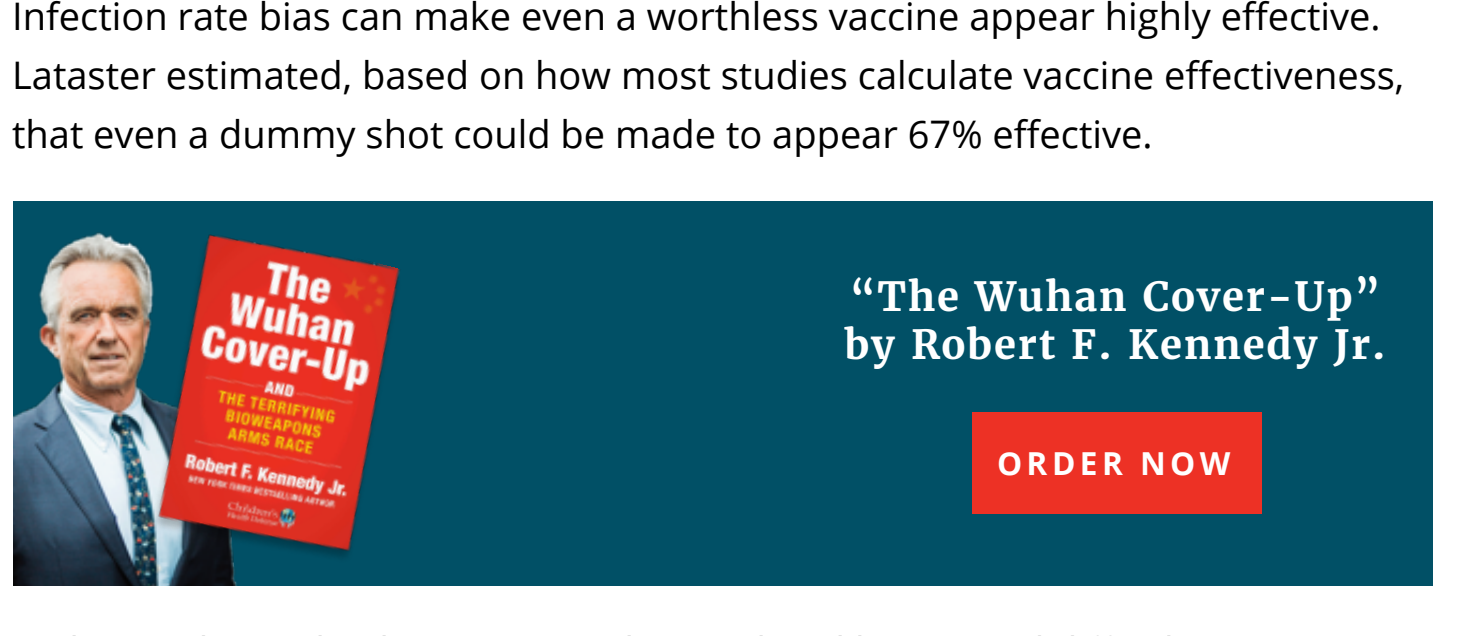
Doshi: Three types of bias led to exaggerated claims

The study at the heart of Lataster's analysis addressed three types of bias that may have contributed to the vaccines' initial stellar reviews: background infection rate bias, age bias and case-counting window bias.

"Background infection rate bias" arises when study groups have inherently different exposure levels.

An extreme example of this would be a study on COVID-19 infections comparing people who were strictly isolated in their homes early on in the pandemic to doctors who saw multiple COVID-19 patients per day during that time.

Infection rate bias can make even a worthless vaccine appear highly effective. Lataster estimated, based on how most studies calculate vaccine effectiveness, that even a dummy shot could be made to appear 67% effective.


"The Wuhan Cover-Up" by Robert F. Kennedy Jr.
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In this study, Doshi also mentioned age-related biases and difficulties in eliminating them.

"Age is perhaps the most influential risk factor in medicine, affecting nearly every health outcome," he wrote. Investigators try to eliminate age bias whenever they can but the task is easier in theory than in practice.

In winter-spring 2021, when vaccine uptake was robust but limited to the elderly, vaccinated people were as a group much older than the unvaccinated and were experiencing just half the younger generation's infection rate. This would tend to make the vaccines appear more effective at preventing infection than they were.

Again, on this basis alone, Doshi calculated the presumed effectiveness of a dummy shot at 51% and suggested applying this percentage as a correction factor for future vaccine effectiveness claims.

However, the most impactful source of error was the "case-counting window bias."

The pivotal COVID-19 vaccine trials used lab-confirmed, symptomatic COVID-19 infection as its primary endpoint. However, the trials did not begin counting cases until 7 or 14 days after the final series shot, at which point subjects were considered "fully vaccinated."

According to Doshi, none of the vaccine manufacturers provided a rationale for excluding cases occurring before this point, which primarily affected adverse event reporting (i.e. safety).

Pfizer was the only exception. The company, on page 15 of its adverse events report, justified the delay by stating that "the vaccine has not had sufficient time to stimulate the immune system."

Lataster dubbed this explanation "bizarre" given that considerable time elapsed between the first shot and 7, 14 or 21 days after the last series shot, during which plenty of side effects could have occurred. Most side effects occur within the first several days after immunization.

"To make matters worse," Lataster wrote, "the unvaccinated do not get such a 'grace period.'" In other words, while vaccine companies were counting cases, hospitalizations and deaths among the unvaccinated, those same events among the vaccinated were ignored.

According to Doshi, this bias accounted for 48% of the claimed effectiveness of these products — a number higher than the admitted effectiveness of the shots after just a few months.

These three biases could have been minimized through randomized, placebo-controlled trials. However, because all manufacturers allowed the placebo group to take the vaccine, "observational studies are all we have."

It gets worse — there was a fourth bias

In his July 2023 paper, Lataster suggested a fourth source of bias — definitional bias — that Doshi missed.

Definitional bias refers to categorizing people as "unvaccinated" if they received their last shot fewer than some arbitrarily selected number of days previously.

While one could argue for counting those subjects as "unvaccinated" for purposes of determining vaccine effectiveness, doing so makes no sense for safety monitoring, according to Lataster:

> "While it may in some circumstances be appropriate to monitor the effectiveness of the mRNA vaccines from the point that they are most effective … there is no sound rationale for this to apply to safety analyses."

The greatest danger from definitional bias is not that adverse events go uncounted, but that danger signals among the vaccinated that occur before the counting window opens are lumped in with those who received no shots.

Doshi's and Lataster's original papers referred to biases in observational studies, but as Doshi noted in his second paper, the same case-counting window biases also were prominent in the vaccines' original, placebo-controlled COVID-19 vaccine trials.

For example, cases and adverse events occurring after vaccination but before the "window" opened were either uncounted or assigned to the unvaccinated group, resulting in the vaccine appearing to be safer and more effective than it was.

Lataster responded with yet another paper pointing out additional issues.

One of these was the large number of patients "lost to follow-up" in one Pfizer study — subjects who because of ill health, severe vaccine reaction or some other reason did not stay in the study long enough to have their results counted.

Subjects lost to follow-up were numerous enough to have swayed results strongly in one direction or another.

There were also more than 3,000 cases of suspected but unconfirmed COVID-19 in the overall study population, split almost evenly between the treatment and placebo groups. These cases, Lataster wrote, "would have drastically brought down treatment efficacy estimates."

For example, based on five COVID-19 cases among the vaccinated and 95 cases among the unvaccinated, one could state that the vaccine was highly effective. However, adding 1,000 COVID-19 cases to both groups, 1,005 cases versus 1,095 cases is far less impressive, according to Lataster.

RFK Jr. and Brian Hooker's
New Book: "Vax-Unvax"
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"In this way," Lataster wrote, "a product with less than 10% effectiveness can be made to look over 90% effective. Anything can be claimed with manipulated data."

Lataster's second paper also raised additional safety and one effectiveness issue that Doshi missed in his original paper.

The safety signal is myocarditis, a topic familiar to Defender readers. Myocarditis, or heart muscle inflammation and damage, has been a hot topic due to news reports of young, apparently healthy vaccinated individuals suddenly dropping dead.

The effectiveness issue involves negative effectiveness, the process by which a vaccine becomes less and less effective, to the point where vaccinated individuals are at greater risk for infection.

Lataster cited another study in the American Journal of Epidemiology which claimed, "The benefits of mRNA COVID-19 vaccines in protecting against the omicron variant outweigh the risks, irrespective of age, sex, and comorbidity."

According to Lataster, this paper demonstrates that any potential benefit to vaccination was minimal and that there may be "no net benefits, and possibly even net deficits," to COVID-19 vaccination.

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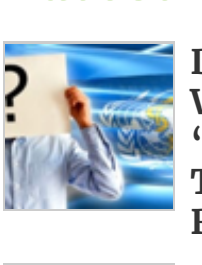
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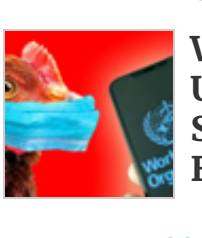
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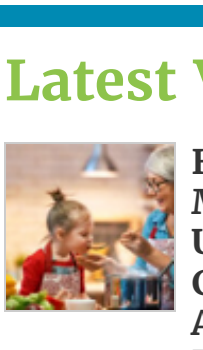
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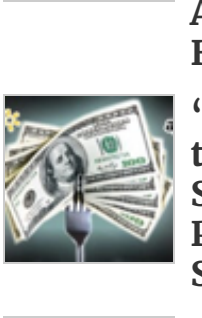
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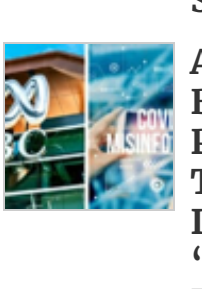
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Angelo DePalma, Ph.D.
Angelo DePalma, Ph.D., is a science reporter/editor for The Defender.

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Someone a month ago
The bias was obvious from the start when you looked at how 95% effective was based off less than 200 cases out of well over 10000 people. If you did a study of 10,000 people for a supplement to see how it prevented a disease and less than 200 total even got the disease in both groups we know full well that would have been called "not statistically significant" because it's hard to tell if such a small difference was even caused by the supplement. It's only significant because it was a vaccine and lined up with their interests (after much manipulation). There also was a huge difference in how they handled testing in the trial compared to outside the trial and there was also bias in the cycle count used for PCR tests on vaccinated and unvaccinated and how often the tests were even done.
12 0 Reply

CreoleGumbo → Someone a month ago
It was also never made clear that PCR was not testing for the presence of a virus or measuring the amount. It was testing for fragments of DNA that matched viral DNA fragments. Testing for DNA is not testing for virus. PCR was initially used for crime scene investigation because it multiplied the amount of DNA recovered. Finding DNA at a crime scene is not the same as finding the person there! Kari Mullis, the inventor of PCR sald that it is NOT a medical diagnostic test.
8 0 Reply

GarySummers → CreoleGumbo a month ago
"PCR Inventor (Kary Mullis) stated "PCR was Not designed to diagnose infectious disease" - Sadly Mullis Passed Away Right Before The Outbreak"
https://odysee.com/@Justice...
5 0 Reply

fedupwithlies → GarySummers a month ago
He didn't "PASS" away. His life was ENDED because of what he knew and because he publicly said this PCR Test is not effective for what they were USING it for. Suddenly.., he was gone! Easy assembly puzzle on that one.
3 0 Reply

Voyt Regnal → CreoleGumbo a month ago
And: nobody used PCR tests before 2020. There is simply no background to compare anything taken by swabs during 'the covid'. Who can possibly know what we had in our noses in 2017 or 2018 ?
5 0 Reply

CreoleGumbo → Voyt Regnal a month ago
Absolutely. Prior to 2020 if someone came and said "I am coughing, have a scratchy throat" they would have been told that they have a cold. No testing would have been done and no one would have been concerned if the cold were due to rhonovirus, coronavirus or adenovirus, etc.
2 0 Reply

Someone → CreoleGumbo a month ago
Yeah, everything about covid made no sense at all. Such a big deal was made about it and the absolute refusal to treat it early is just completely unheard of in medicine. Locking down healthy people also was unheard because we quarantine the ill, not the healthy.
3 0 Reply

fedupwithlies → Voyt Regnal a month ago
Right? I know what was in MINE..., OXYGEN FROM NATURE!!
1 0 Reply

fedupwithlies → CreoleGumbo a month ago
That's correct! I remember his interview.
1 0 Reply

GarySummers → Someone a month ago
BioNTech 2022 SEC Filing: We May Not Be Able To Demonstrate Sufficient Efficacy or Safety of Our COVID-19 Vaccine
"Significant Adverse Events Could Delay or Prevent Regulatory Approval"

While we are eagerly waiting for the next Pfizer document dump, BioNTech released its annual SEC Filing.

Just like in the 2021 Annual SEC Filing, Pfizer admits that due to safety concerns and the inability to demonstrate sufficient efficacy, they are not likely to receive regulatory approval.

A notable change: " Undesirable Side Effects" in 2021 Filing was upgraded to "Significant Adverse Events".

Will this damning documented admission be ignored again by the MSM and the majority of so-called Alternative media the same way they ignored BioNTech's 2021 SEC Filing?
https://lionessofjudah.subs...
2 0 Reply

Voyt Regnal a month ago
'How' is not my concern anymore. 'When' these criminals will pay for their dirty deeds is much more important 😤
12 0 Reply

fedupwithlies → Voyt Regnal a month ago
Agreed!
1 0 Reply

Critical Thinker a month ago edited
There's no evidence that proves the COVID vax "saved" anyone. Show me just one person who was snatched from the jaws of death by the COVID vax — you can't. Nobody can. The claim is a proclamation based only on models and opinions that are in-turn based on flawed data and bad assumptions.

And then there is Relative vs Absolute Risk Reduction: https://www.canadiancovidca...
8 0 Reply

Someone → Critical Thinker a month ago
That's true of any measure of prevention. There is no way to prove for sure that any specific person did not get the disease because X preventative measure was used. At best they can only compare the numbers that got the disease before it was done and after it was done and numbers among those who did X thing and who did not. However, that isn't perfect because there are numerous other potential variables that could play a part that are difficult to impossible to control for because every person is different.
2 1 Reply

Gary Brown a month ago
March 7, 2024 Big Pharma and Its Shills Are Having to Adjust their Covid Fiction to the Facts

With people suddenly dropping dead all over the mRNA-vaccinated world, with oncologists reporting massive increases in cancers, turbo-cancers never previously encountered, with studies documenting menstrual and fertility problems with Covid-vaccinated women, with young children having heart attacks, with a new form of blood clots that look like linguine, with outbreaks of Guillain-Barre syndrome and neurological ailments, myocarditis, pericarditis, spinal cord and brain inflammations, and every other kind of health horror, a controlled narrative explanation is needed.

https://www.paulcraigrobert...

see more
6 0 Reply

GarySummers → Gary Brown a month ago
Forget vaccines, these Covid-19 mRNA shots are 'Medical Countermeasures' sourced from 'uncontrolled manufacturers across the world by the US Department of Defence'. They are Bioweapons which the DOD have distributed to all and sundry to be injected into us without risk of prosecution when they harm and kill us. Current USA legislation provides for this by means of the PREP Act and the Experimental Use Authorisation (EUA) Act among others. We are all being experimented on without knowing it. Wake-up and say NO to these experiments on your person. We are the mice or rats (your choice of which one you are) in this laboratory experiment!

"BOMBSHELL docs reveal "Covid-19 COVER-UP" goes straight to the top | Redacted with Clayton Morris"
A BOMBSHELL new report claims shows that the "Department of Defense" - meaning the Pentagon - controlled the COVID-19 Program from the very beginning. If true, it means that everything we were told was "political theater, right down to the FDA vaccine approval process". Our guest today is the former executive of a "pharmaceutical contract research organization", "Sasha Latypova" and she shows what she has found due to her searches based on instinct that the Covid vaccine

see more
4 0 Reply

fedupwithlies → GarySummers a month ago
The Pentagon USED this as an ATTACK against their OWN PEOPLE!! DISGUSTING! This was/IS and act of war and I believed that from day ONE!!
2 0 Reply

fedupwithlies → GarySummers a month ago
They will have NO immunity if the WORLD goes after them!! UNITED WE ALL STAND!!
1 0 Reply

Double_Up a month ago
So many people still being sheep.
6 0 Reply

Andreas a month ago
lies, bold lies and statistics . . .
6 0 Reply

Gary Brown → Andreas a month ago
Mark Twain said it like this, "There are lies, damned lies and statistics." Mark Twain
2 0 Reply

Ektor a month ago
All big pharma drug trials are a scam. Most drugs are worthless and very harmful to the body. Without fake trials and payoffs to the FDA, big pharma would not exist.
4 0 Reply

THOB a month ago
It is amazing the number of people who proudly announce "I've just had my fifth or sixth shot". The first or second shot must have 'blown their brains out'. God help these poor souls as they are not about to help themselves anytime soon. The mounting evidence is hard to ignore but regrettably many will.
4 0 Reply

fedupwithlies → THOB a month ago
YEs. The affects/Effects are starting to really surface, more and more each day! Their destruction is happening. And the psychopaths in Government are ecstatic. Their experiment worked and they are wealthier! That's all they care about! GD will have to punish them in OUR time, so we can see THEM suffer for their evil, EVIL Sins against humanity. INCLUDING AGAINST CHILDREN AND BABIES! Very, Very Sick!
0 0 Reply

Deanna a month ago
They can get that book by Edward Dowd "Cause Uknown The Epidemic of Sudden Deaths in 2021 and 2022....WOOOOOOWEEEEEEEE! The powers that previously had know the so called data/science was very flawed and very distorted with reference to data collection during those clinical trials.
3 0 Reply

r2bzjudge a month ago edited
If i remember correctly, Pfizer announced an efficacy just under 95%. Then Moderna announced 95% for their version, followed by Pfizer revising their efficacy to match Moderna. The math calculation doesn't change, however. Later, it came out that the Absolute Risk Reduction of the mRNA shots was only about 1%. There was no reason to take the shot, with only 1% ARR. As it turned out, people who got the Covid shot, later got Covid, validating the 1% ARR. The public was scammed by the CDC withholding the the ARR # from us, to hide the truth and protect their mass vaccination agenda.
2 0 Reply

GarySummers a month ago
""Anomalous Patterns of Mortality and Morbidity in Pfizer's Covid-19 Vaccine Trial""

Importantly, the data reveals a statistically significant connection between mortality rate and time since injection, for both the placebo arm and the mRNA arm. Very few deaths happen during the first 80 days, while unexpectedly many deaths occur around 100 days since injection, in a manner that could not arise by chance.""

The observed patterns cannot be the result of random occurrence. The only explanation compatible with all the non-random patterns is that the records of vaccine recipients suffering adverse events and death may have been changed, moving them to the placebo arm after the event.
https://wherearethenumbers....
2 0 Reply

GarySummers a month ago
Researchers Find Pfizer Excluded Clinical Trial Deaths From FDA COVID Vaccine EUA Request. <<< Peer Reviewed study

"The analysis reported here is unique: it is the first study of the original data from the Pfizer/BioNTech BNT162b2 mRNA vaccine clinical trial (C4591001) to be carried out by a group unaffiliated with the trial sponsor.

Our study is a forensic analysis of the 38 trial subjects who died between July 27, 2020, the start of Phase 2/3 of the clinical trial, and March 13, 2021, the end date of theofficial6-Month Interim Report.

Phase 2/3 of the trial involved 44,060subjects who were equally distributed into two groups and received dose1 of either the BNT162b2 mRNA vaccine or a placebo consisting of a 0.9% normal salinesolution.
At week 20, when the BNT162b2 mRNA vaccine received Emergency Use Authorization from the US FDA, subjects in the placebo arm were given the option to receive the BNT162b2 vaccine and switch to the vaccinatedgroup.
Of the reported 20,794 unblinded placebo subjects, 19,685 received at least one dose of BNT162b2 vaccine.

see more
1 0 Reply

fedupwithlies a month ago
COVID19, due to the people who created it and forced it into action, cost MILLIONS of lives, MILLIONS of Jobs, Millions of people who LOST THEIR HOMES. AND NOBODY HAS BEEN CHARGED OR SENTENCED. The world KNOWS who owns the so-called "Justice System" in America!
0 0 Reply

fedupwithlies a month ago edited
Vaccines are dangerous and Ineffective. This gets proven time and time again! Covid19 was/is a War on Humanity and a Lie! Period. All for money and control.
Vaccines are NOT safe. SO.., why does RFK Jr., say "Some" vaccines are good? This is puzzling. NO injections into a human body are good. It appears that SOMEWHERE, SOMEHOW they DO damage or destroy healthy human life! It's just passed off as some other "ailment" or "Old Age". Pharma is a cartel and a business. Fauci should be in prison for brainwashing millions into being test rats for an Unproven chemical. All others involved in this 19 War and Lie, Especially legacy medias, should be in prison!
0 0 Reply

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